

#10  
2/20/03 P. 01  
MwistApproved For use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being transmitted via facsimile (703/872-9319) on the date indicated below.

February 17, 2003  
Date

Kevin L. Daffer

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED  
EXAMINATION TRANSMITTAL (RCE)

Subsection(b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number 09/661,666

Filing Date September 14, 2000

First Named Inventor Jianmin Qiao et al.

Group Art Unit 2813

Examiner Name T. Pham

Atty Docket Number 5298-04100

Title METHOD OF FORMING SELF ALIGNED CONTACTS

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SR/29) instead of an RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See *Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice*, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

## 1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☒ Previously submittedi. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on January 21, 2003. ✓ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_b. ☐ Enclosedi. ☐ Amendment/Replyii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Miscellaneous

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(f) required)b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Fees (The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed)

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 03-2769/5298-04100.i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

FAX RECEIVED

FEB 17 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin L. Daffer, Reg. No. 34,146  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.  
P.O. Box 684908  
Austin, TX 78768-4908  
(512) 476-1400

02/20/2003 CROLLISH 00000001 032769 09661666

01 FEB-18-2003 750.00 PM  
February 17, 2003  
Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. This time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

PTO/SB/00 (08-00)  
 Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0631-0031  
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being transmitted via facsimile (703/872-9319) on the date indicated below.

February 17, 2003  
 Date

Kevin L. Daffer

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED  
EXAMINATION TRANSMITTAL (RCE)

Subsection(b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plan application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

Application Number 09/661,666

Filing Date September 14, 2000

First Named Inventor Jianmin Qiao et al.

Group Art Unit 2813

Examiner Name T. Pham

Atty Docket Number 5298-04100

Title METHOD OF FORMING SELF ALIGNED CONTACTS

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (PTO/SR/29) instead of an RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See *Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice*, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

## 1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

a. ☒ Previously submitted

i. ☒ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on January 21, 2003.

ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☐ Enclosed

i. ☐ Amendment/Reply

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Miscellaneous

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Fees (The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed)

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 03-2769/5298-04100.

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

FAX RECEIVED

FEB 17 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin L. Daffer, Reg. No. 34,146  
 Attorney for Applicant(s)  
 CONLEY ROSE, P.C.  
 P.O. Box 684908  
 Austin, TX 78768-4908  
 (512) 476-1400

February 17, 2003  
 Date

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. This time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCR, Washington, DC 20231.